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Rev. Amos A. Phelps



Boston

Mass.

I am glad you have put up Johnson,
& shall take satisfaction in urging his
support. We must take the wind out of
the sails of the Democracy & bring back
the Whig abolitionists from their apathy,
& elect an man as ours, not letting
him be adopted by either of the other
parties or such, but as far as possible by
fair means, keep them from adopting him
if they insist upon it, of course we
— it help it, but it is ~~the~~ less desirable.

On the subject of the paper, my own
strong impressions are, that my place
is here. If I ~~can~~ it be sustained, however,
which will probably be ascertained be-
fore the commencement of your
new volume, I should prefer going
to Boston on many accounts, espe-
cially since your mail steamers
have made Boston the depot of European
intercourse & news.

Yours in sincerity
John Leavitt.

Witness the tones & tenor of your own articles
on "Cann Law", &c. &c. What put it into your
head to see so clearly the relative im-
portance of this question, on which
the body of abolitionists are so obtuse. It
is the thing, & I have never thought
of giving myself up to it for a few months.

The great problem is, while our demo-
cratic tendencies are so rapidly developing,
how far we ought to go in making demo-
cratic propositions. We need to steer the
via media between conservatism and
prematurity. Multitudes of our folks
are as yet unconscious of the extent of
their own progress in liberal prin-
ciples. My chief anxiety is to keep far
the danger of being committed to a Bank
& Tariff, or some other artificial policy.
On the question of reduction of govern-
mental expenses, I think we should
be pretty early in pledging ourselves
to it, and to that fairness of dealing
which keeps the expenses within the ordin-
ary income of the government, and
which does not shrink from telling the
people of the occasion when new
burdens of taxation are necessary.

Rev. Joshua Leavitt.

New York, Dec. 7, 1840

Dear Brother -

I am much pleased with your arrangement for the 10th district, & will render any aid in my power; will try to be with you a week or two - wish you to give me as much notice before hand as possible, that I may make my arrangements so as not to be distracted with care. Persuade Mr. Johnson to show himself & make a speech in every town in the district. The Whigs & Democrats must object, for Gen. Harrison & Col. Johnson did it without stint. And it is a good thing - the "progress" of things requires & justifies it. Nothing else will answer as a substitute for it, and as there is no pretext that it is wrong, the obligation to do it is precisely equivalent to the importance of our object. I am, as a Democrat, pleased to see how the minds of Whigs, as in the case of Johnson, are rendered Democratic by conversing with Abolition